

Listening Session Locations

November 11 – Spooner Agricultural Research Station,
W6646 Hwy 70

November 12 – Lake Tomahawk, Sloan Community Center,
Rainbow Road

November 13 – Eau Claire, DNR Regional Headquarters,
1300 West Clairemont Avenue

December 1 – Onalaska City Hall,
415 Main Street

December 4 – Grand Chute Town Hall,
1900 Grand Chute Boulevard

December 5 – Crivitz Village Hall,
800 Henriette Avenue

December 9 – Madison, Department of Agriculture, Trade, and
Consumer Protection Central Office, the Board Room, 2811 Agriculture
Drive

December 11 – Waukesha County Courthouse, Room 350, the County
Board Room, 515 West Moreland Boulevard

For More Information on the rule revision process, advisory committee proceedings, listening sessions and the draft proposal, PLEASE see our website at www.dnr.state.wi.us, go down to “Go to some topics” drop-down menu and choose “Shoreland Management.” OR

Contact Toni Herkert at the DNR at 608-266-0161 or Toni.Herkert@dnr.state.wi.us with your suggestions or comments on how the proposal can be improved. You can also ask to be placed on a list of interested parties to receive rule revision information as it becomes available.



Protecting Wisconsin's lakes and rivers for everyone...



NR 115 Listening Sessions on shoreland development standards

November and December 2003

Revisions to the Statewide Minimum Shoreland Development Standards



After a year of work, by a dedicated Advisory Committee with over 25 members, preliminary proposals to update the more than 30-year-old Shoreland Management Program in Wisconsin have been drafted.

Wisconsin's Shoreland Management Program, found in Chapter NR115 of Wisconsin Administrative Code, contains statewide minimum standards for shoreland development that are designed to protect water quality, fish and wildlife habitat and scenic beauty along navigable lakes and rivers.

The goal posed to the Advisory Committee was to protect public rights in navigable waters while allowing property owners to make reasonable use of their properties. This revision effort has been spurred by a continuing waterfront building boom, new research about how such development affects water quality and fish and wildlife habitat, and growing complaints about the existing standards from property owners and local governments.

As in the past, each county in the state with unincorporated areas will continue to administer and enforce a county shoreland zoning ordinance that meets or exceeds the statewide minimum standards in Chapter NR115. Because a statewide administrative code cannot tailor make provisions to protect all resources equally, counties will continue to have the authority to create more protective standards that are better suited to local resource needs.

Listening Sessions

The purpose of these sessions is to give the public an opportunity to review and comment on the draft proposals generated together by the Advisory Committee and the Department. The open house portion of the sessions will allow people to talk informally with Department staff and Advisory Committee members to ask questions or share ideas. At this point in the rule revision process it is very important that we hear from the general public.

Listening sessions have been added as an additional step in the traditional rule revision process because the Department recognizes this issue needs special consideration and debate in an open, informative, honest and participatory forum. It has been over 35 years since the rule was first promulgated and it has not been substantially updated.

The key to a successful Shoreland Management Program is to find that proper balance between property owners' desires and the public's rights in Wisconsin's waters. We hope to achieve this goal through the progress that was made with a very large and diverse Advisory Committee and by engaging the public early on in the process with these listening sessions.

AGENDA
2:00 – 3:00 AND 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. – Open House Visit displays staffed by Advisory Committee members, DNR staff and local community members working on shoreland issues to ask one-on-one questions. This is an ideal time to ask technical or more in-depth questions.
3:00 – 4:30 AND 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. – Presentations Learn from people working on shoreland management issues and discover why statewide minimum development standards are needed to protect and preserve Wisconsin's water resources and the substantial private investment in shoreland properties. Get an introduction to the draft proposals for revising Chapter NR115 and ask questions regarding the proposed revision concepts.
4:30 – 5:30 AND 8:00 – 9:00 p.m. – Public Comment Period Provide feedback on the proposals to update the Shoreland Management Program. This session, although informal in nature, will closely reflect a formal public hearing process. Audience members will fill out slips to speak and depending on the number of speakers, time will be allotted accordingly.